

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAR 13 2008**Serial No. 10/680,986
60,130-1891; 03MRA0488**REMARKS**

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. New claims 41-43 are presented. Accordingly, claims 27-43 are pending in the application.

Claims 27-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 437. Respectfully, the rejection does not appear to consider all of the limitations set forth in independent claims 27 and 34. For instance, claims 27 and 34 recite that the anti-shift collar includes a first clipped end and a second clipped end in the elliptical outer perimeter. As an example, Figures 3 and 4 of the subject application illustrate clipped ends 47. JP 437 does not appear to disclose an anti-shift collar having clipped ends. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 27 and 34 be withdrawn.

Additionally, the rejection does not appear to fully consider the claimed first polygonal inner perimeter portion and second polygonal inner perimeter portion of independent claim 31. For instance, the portions 20b of the JP 437 reference that the Examiner points to appear to have curved sides rather than a polygonal shape having straight sides. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 31 be withdrawn.

Claims 27-40 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 944 in view of Sugita. Respectfully, the rejection does not appear to consider all of the limitations in the claims. For instance, each of the independent claims recites an elliptical outer perimeter, but the rejection does not mention this claim element. Further, the collar of the JP 944 reference appears to be circular, and the retainer of the Sugita reference also appears to be circular. Therefore, the rejection seems to ignore this claim element and neither of the cited references suggests this claim element. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Additionally, the rejection does not appear to consider at least the second method step in independent claim 34 that recites crimping the anti-shift collar simultaneously in four locations upon the elliptical outer perimeter. Neither the JP 944 reference nor the Sugita reference seems to disclose crimping in the claimed manner, and the rejection does not explain how the references are interpreted to suggest the claimed method. For this additional reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claim 34 and its dependent claims be withdrawn.

Additionally, regarding the anticipation rejection and the obviousness rejection, the Examiner relies on the figures from foreign language references without providing English

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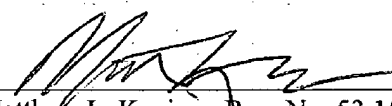
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translations of the references. Although Applicant has responded to the rejections as discussed above, the rejections are improper without English translations to allow Applicant a full and fair chance to objectively interpret the references and respond. For instance, even though the Examiner appears only to rely on the figures, the figures cannot be fully and objectively interpreted without the accompanying text and description. Further, even though the Examiner does not seem to specifically rely on the English abstracts of the references as in previous rejections, the Examiner likely relied on the English abstracts to find the references and determine the relevance of the figures of the underlying document. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections should be withdrawn and English translations should be provided.

New claims 41-43 are presented and recite additional features that Applicant believes are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references. No new matter has been added.

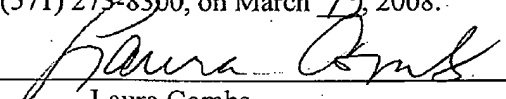
Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,


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(248) 988-8360Dated: March 13, 2008

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, fax number (571) 273-8300, on March 13, 2008.


Laura Combs